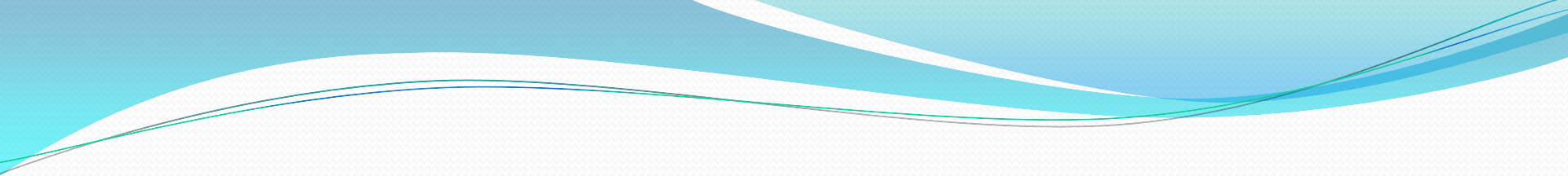


Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Presentation to the Island County Council of
Governments

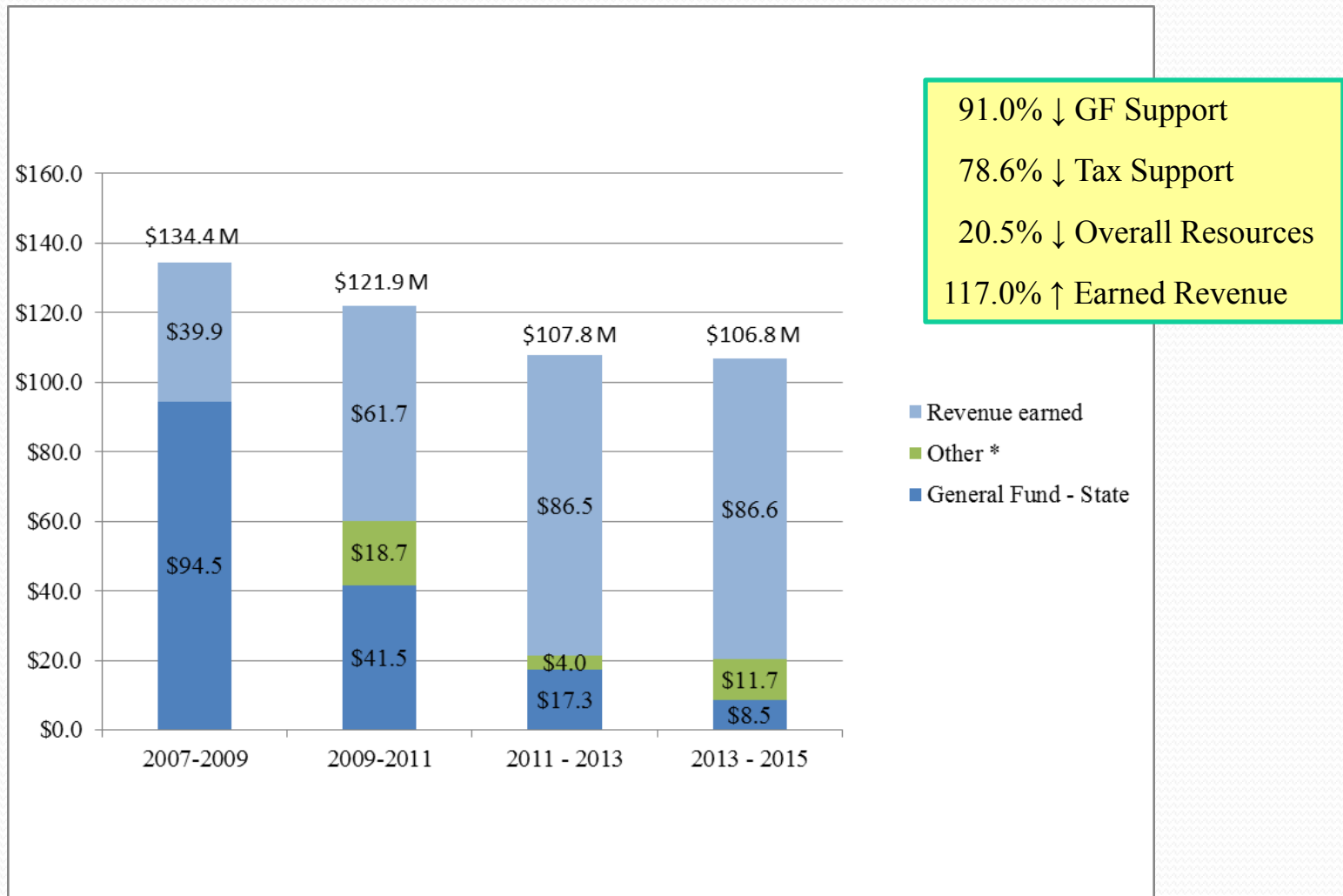
October 22, 2014

- 
- Jon Crimmins, Central Whidbey Area Manager
 - Jack Hartt, Deception Pass Area Manager
 - Daniel Farber, Policy and Governmental Affairs Director
 - Eric Watilo, Northwest Region Manager

WA State Parks' Current Picture



Reduction in Available Resources



* Other Does not include dedicated funds (Winter Rec, Boating Safety, Roads, etc.)

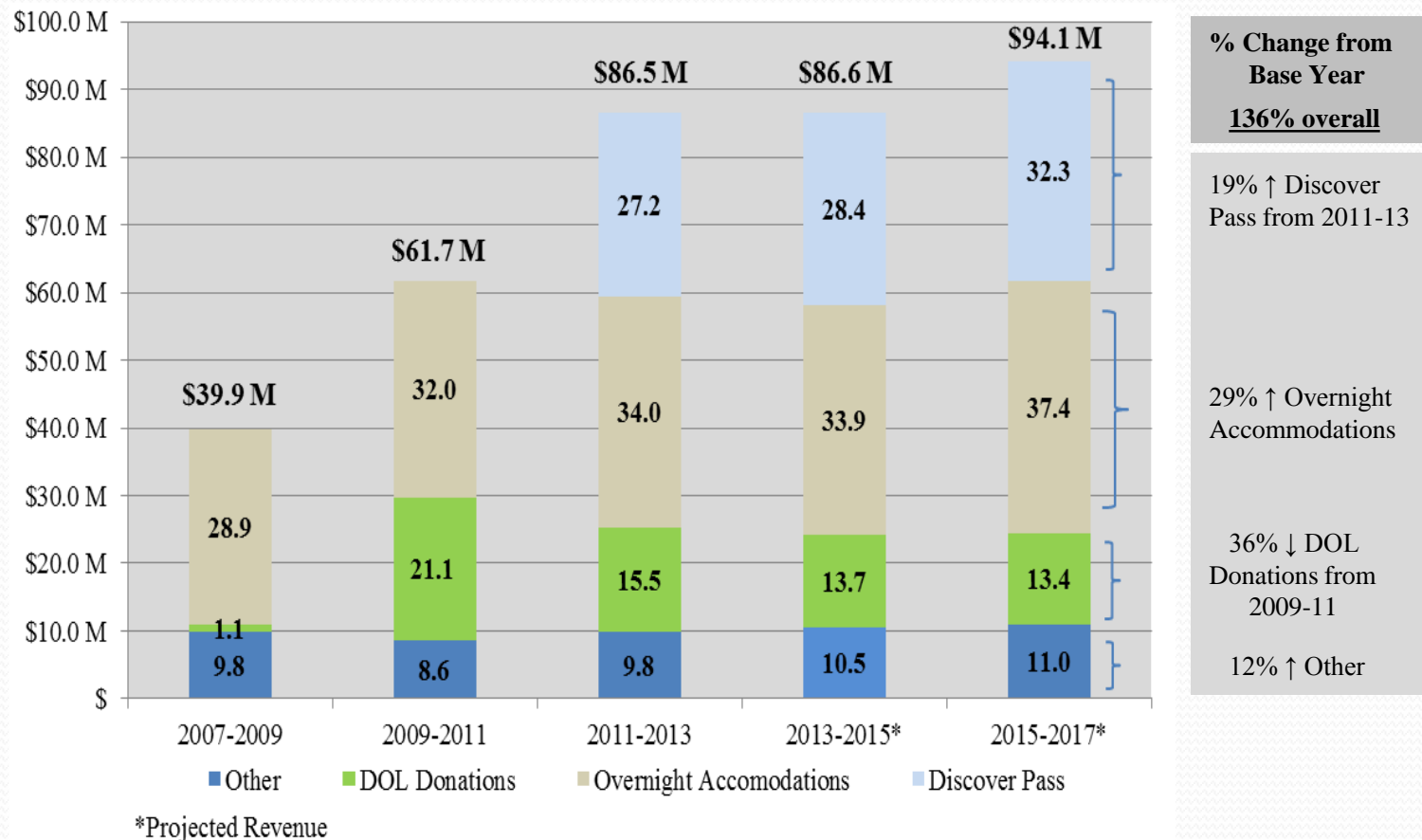
** Includes: 09 - 11 - Recreation Resource Account, Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA), 11 - 13 - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), and 13 - 15 - Litter tax

Is Self-Sufficiency Possible?

Legislatively Mandated Explorations

- 2012 State of State Parks Report to OFM
- 2013 State of State Parks Report to OFM
- 2013 Capital Program Analysis to Legislature
- 2013 Discover Pass Program Analysis to Legislature
- Property Management Analysis due in 2015
- 2014 Parks and Outdoor Recreation Task Force

Growing Earned Revenue



State Parks and the Outdoor Recreation Task Force

- Identifying “The Gap”
 - \$64 million per biennium between existing operating budget level and healthy and sustainable level
- Filling “The Gap”
 - Earned Revenues
 - User Fees, including the Discover Pass
 - Non-Recreational leases and other revenues
 - Partnerships, Volunteers, and Philanthropy
 - Taxes
 - General Taxes (Government/Administrative, Stewardship, Social Policy)
 - Recreation-oriented taxes (High Nexus)

A Note About Capital

Comparison between 2001 and 2013 Facilities Condition Assessment

2001	2013 (preliminary)
Total Number of Buildings: 2679	Total Number of Buildings: 2742
Total Replacement Value: \$1,065,500,327*	Total Replacement Value: \$1,173,063,197
Deferred Maintenance Backlog: \$372,911,517*	Deferred Maintenance Backlog: \$463,056,332
Facility Condition Index: 65%**	Facility Condition Index: 61%**

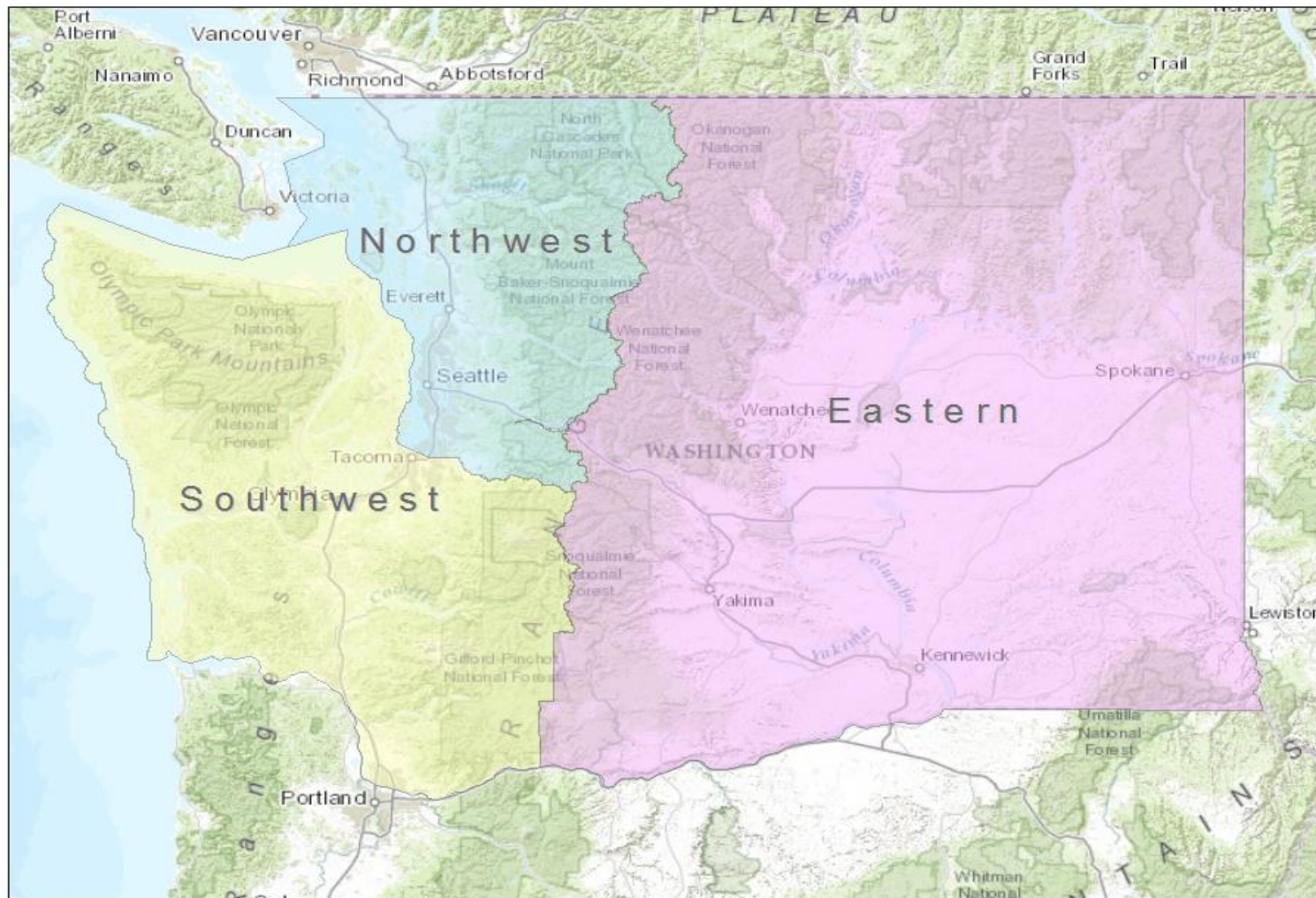
* Adjusted for inflation

**Facilities Condition Index = 1-Deferred Maintenance %

State Parks; Island County; Whidbey Island...



Washington State Parks Region Map





WA State Parks in Island County

- Cama Beach
- Camano Island
- Deception Pass
- Joseph Whidbey
- Fort Ebey
- Ebey's Landing
- Fort Casey
- South Whidbey
- Possession Point

State Parks Visitation (FY2013)

• Cama Beach	302,613
• Camano Island	221,727
• Deception Pass	2,740,654
• Joseph Whidbey	65,822
• Fort Ebey	270,601
• Ebey's Landing	149,046
• Fort Casey	839,652
• South Whidbey	140,328
• Possession Point	No data

Visitation in Descending Order

• Deception Pass	2,740,654
• Fort Casey	839,652
• Cama Beach	302,613
• Fort Ebey	270,601
• Camano Island	221,727
• Ebey's Landing	149,046
• South Whidbey	140,328
• Joseph Whidbey	65,822
• Possession Point	<u>No data</u>
• Total	4,730,433

What Do We Know About These Visitors?

- Focusing on the State Parks on Whidbey Island
- Data collection
 - Cities and counties of residence for reservation campers in 2005 and 2006 and Fort Casey in 2014.
 - Reservation Campers Feedback using “Survey Monkey” in 2013 and 2014.
 - 2002 Dean Runyan Associates Report “*Economic Impacts of Visitors to Washington State Parks.*”

Where Reservation Campers Come From:

- **Deception Pass**

- 29% King County
- 21% British Columbia, Canada
- 17% Snohomish County
- 6% Whatcom County
- 4% Skagit County
- 12% Other Western WA Counties
- 3% All Eastern WA Counties
- 8% Other States, Provinces and Countries

Where Reservation Campers Come From:

- **Fort Ebey**

- 28% King County
- 19% British Columbia, Canada
- 16% Snohomish County
- 9% Whatcom County
- 3% Skagit County
- 15% Other Western WA Counties
- 3% All Eastern WA Counties
- 7% Other States, Provinces and Countries

Where Reservation Campers Come From:

- **Fort Casey**

- 21% Skagit County
- 19% Snohomish County
- 18% King County
- 14% British Columbia, Canada
- 13% Whatcom County
- 6% Other Western WA Counties (including Whidbey Island Residents at .06%)
- 3% All Eastern WA Counties
- 6% Other States, Provinces and Countries

Where Reservation Campers Come From:

- **South Whidbey**

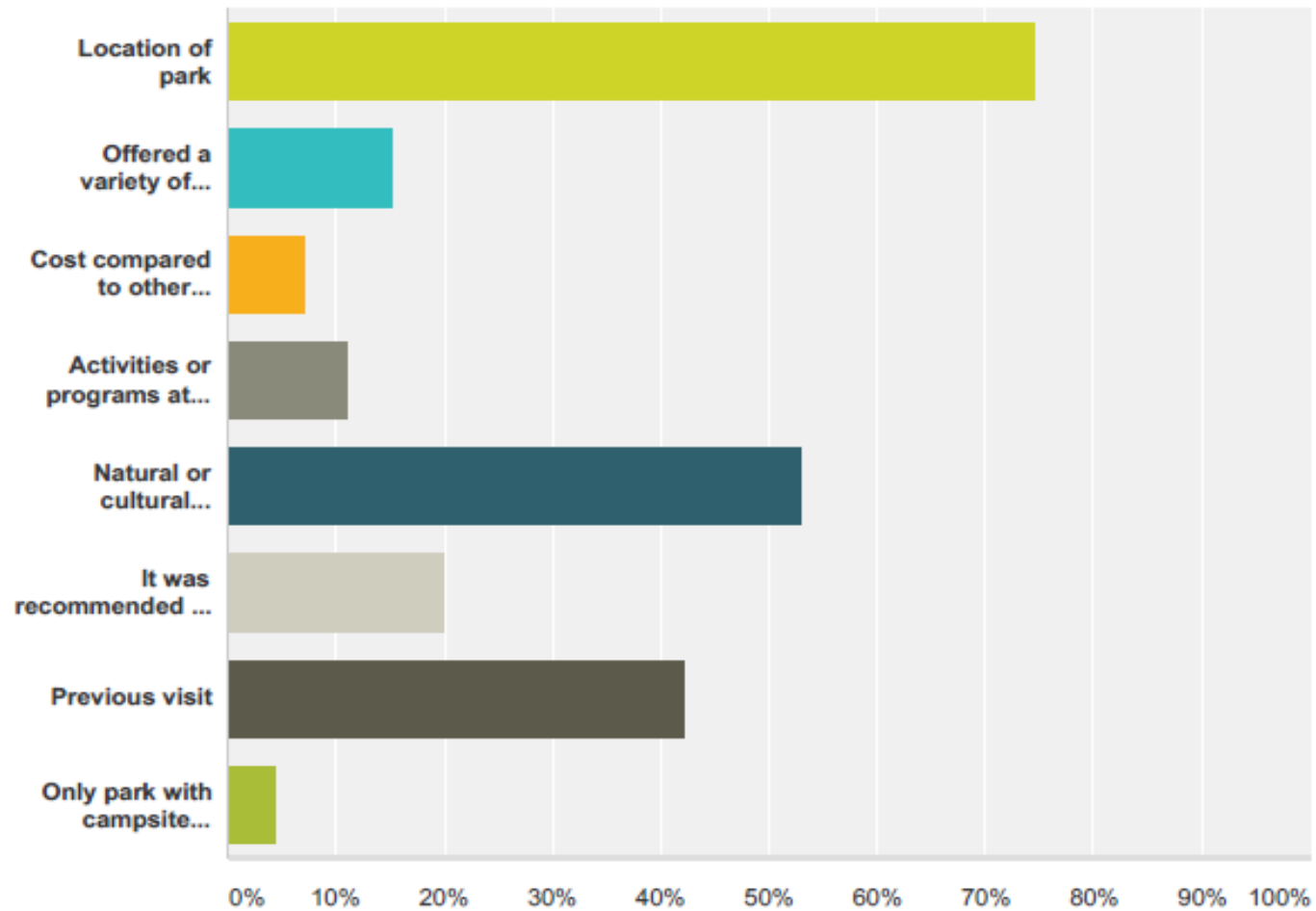
- 42% King County
- 13% Snohomish County
- 12% British Columbia, Canada
- 19% Other Western WA Counties
- 4% All Eastern WA Counties
- 10% Other States, Provinces and Countries

Why Do They Choose These Parks?

- Survey respondents were given the following options and to choose 3:
 - Location
 - Park offered a variety of camping options
 - Cost compared to other lodging options
 - Activities or programs at the park
 - Natural or cultural features that make this park special
 - Recommended by a friend or relative
 - Previous visit
 - Only park in area with campsites available

Q3 What made you choose this state park to visit? (Choose three)

Answered: 323 Skipped: 10



Top 3 for Each Park

- **Deception Pass and Fort Ebey**
 1. Location
 2. Natural or cultural features that make this park special
 3. Previous visit

Top 3 for Each Park

- **Fort Casey**

1. Location
2. Previous visit
3. Natural or cultural features

- **South Whidbey**

1. Location
2. Natural or cultural features
3. Only park with campsites available

Main Reason for Camping Trip

- Enjoying nature and the outdoors
- Getting away, stress reduction or relaxation
- Spending time with family and friends
- Being active
- Participating in cultural events

Main Reasons for Camping Trip

- Enjoying nature and the outdoors – 40%
- Spending time with family and friends – 39%
- Getting away, stress reduction, relaxing – 21%

Does Your Household Have a Discover Pass?

- Yes – 50%
- No – 50%
- What does that tell us about half our campers?
 - Not really sure
 - Use State Parks only for camping
 - Likely do not use DNR land for Day Use
 - Surprised me

What Do These 4,730,433 Visitors Bring to Island County in One Year?

- Dean Runyan Associates 2002 Report
- Used data from a variety of sources including:
 - Washington State visitor surveys,
 - US Census Bureau wildlife recreation related surveys,
 - National Park Service user surveys,
 - US Forest Service user surveys
- Incorporated into WA State Parks attendance figures

Runyan Report

- Created an expenditure profile for varying types of Washington State Parks visitors
 - Overnight in park
 - Hotel/Motel overnight
 - Campsite out of park
 - Day Visitor (traveled over 50 miles one way)
 - Day Local (less than 50 miles)

Trading Up – I'm Worth It!

- Ever since downturn in the nation's economy, Americans have been very careful about their expenditures on everyday items – cheapest gas station, deals at Walmart, etc. “Trading down.”
- However, when it comes to “quality of life” expenditures, Americans will often choose to “Trade up.” “I’m worth it” or “I am on vacation.” This behavior likely applied to the findings in the Runyan Report.

Daily Expenditures Per State Park Visitor (Year 2000)

- **Overnight in Park**

● Accommodations	\$3.70
● Eat/Beverage in Premise	\$4.30
● Food Stores	\$7.50
● Recreation	\$2.10
● Transportation	\$7.50
● Other	<u>\$4.60</u>

Total \$29.60

Daily Expenditures Per State Park Visitor (Year 2000)

- **Day Visitor (50 miles)**

• Accommodations	\$0.00
• Eat/Beverage in Premise	\$4.60
• Food Stores	\$1.70
• Recreation	\$2.10
• Transportation	\$4.10
• Other	<u>\$3.30</u>

Total \$15.70

Daily Expenditures Per State Park Visitor (Year 2000)

- **Day Local**

• Accommodations	\$0.00
• Eat/Beverage in Premise	\$2.20
• Food Stores	\$1.90
• Recreation	\$1.70
• Transportation	\$2.30
• Other	<u>\$1.70</u>

Total \$ 9.80

2000 State Parks Travel Impacts Island County (pre Cama Beach)

- Trip Expenditures **\$45,600,000**
- Earnings (payroll, earned income, proprietor income)
\$11,100,000
- Employment **860 jobs**
- Local Tax Receipts **\$ 2,730,000**
- State Tax Receipts **\$ 3,270,000**

Deception Pass Area



DECEPTION PASS
STATE PARK

WELCOME





















LAUNCH FEE \$7.00
ANNUAL LAUNCH FEE \$70.00
OVERNIGHT PARKING \$10.00



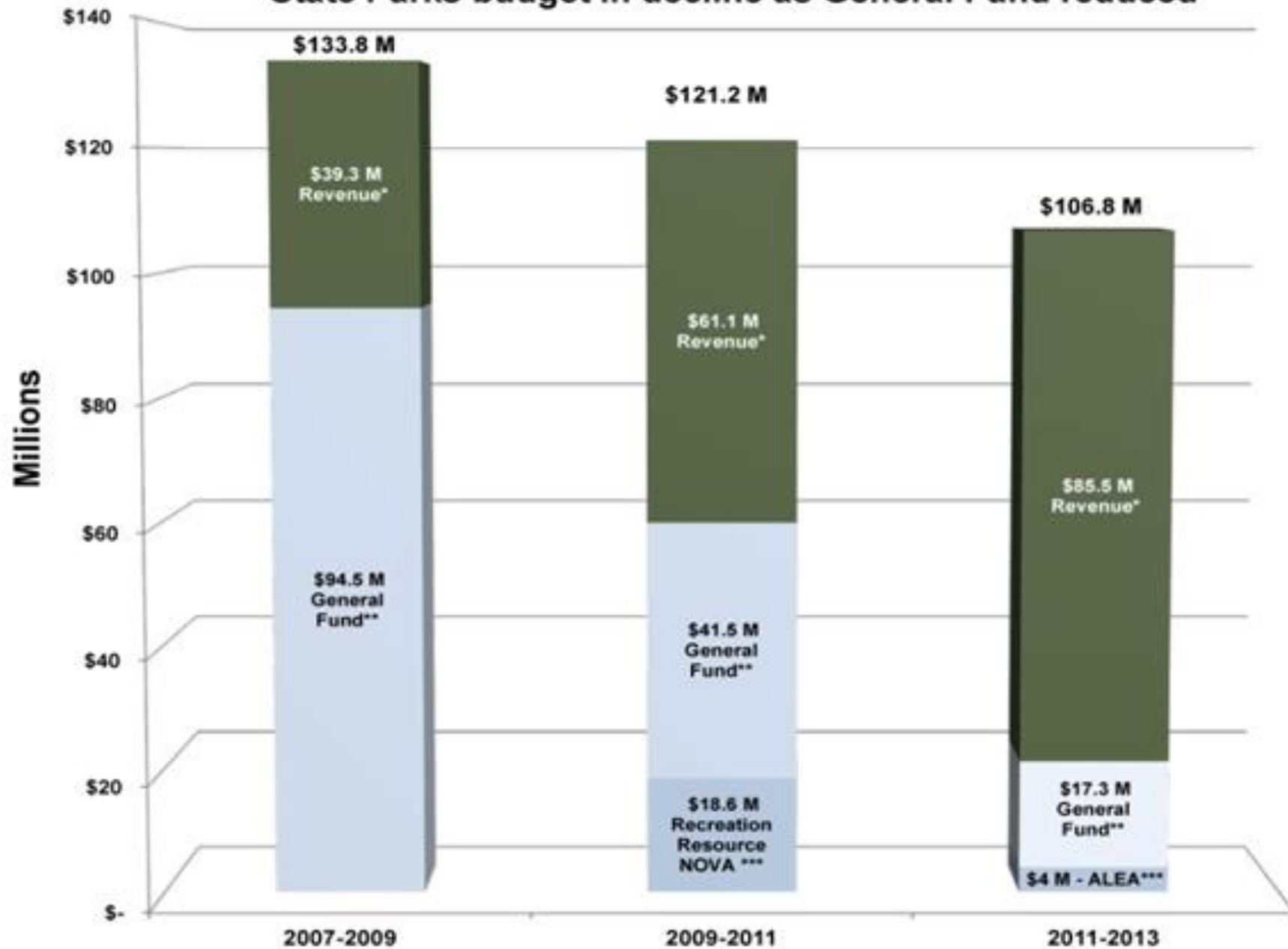
22
44
88







State Parks budget in decline as General Fund reduced



Recreation Fee Area

**Discover
Pass
Required**



CHAPTER 7.84 RCW VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO FINES

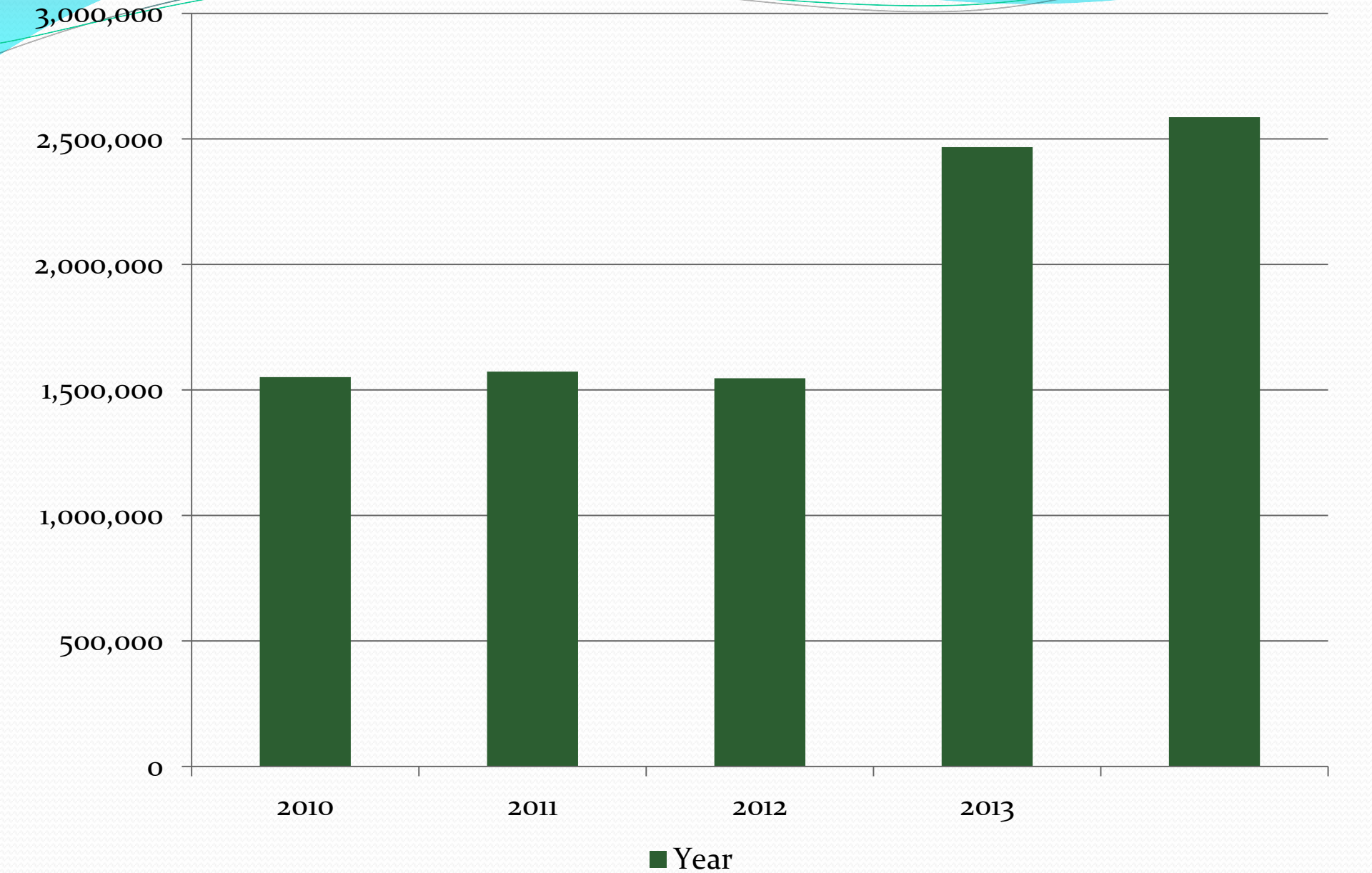
ACCESS FEE

\$10/DAY

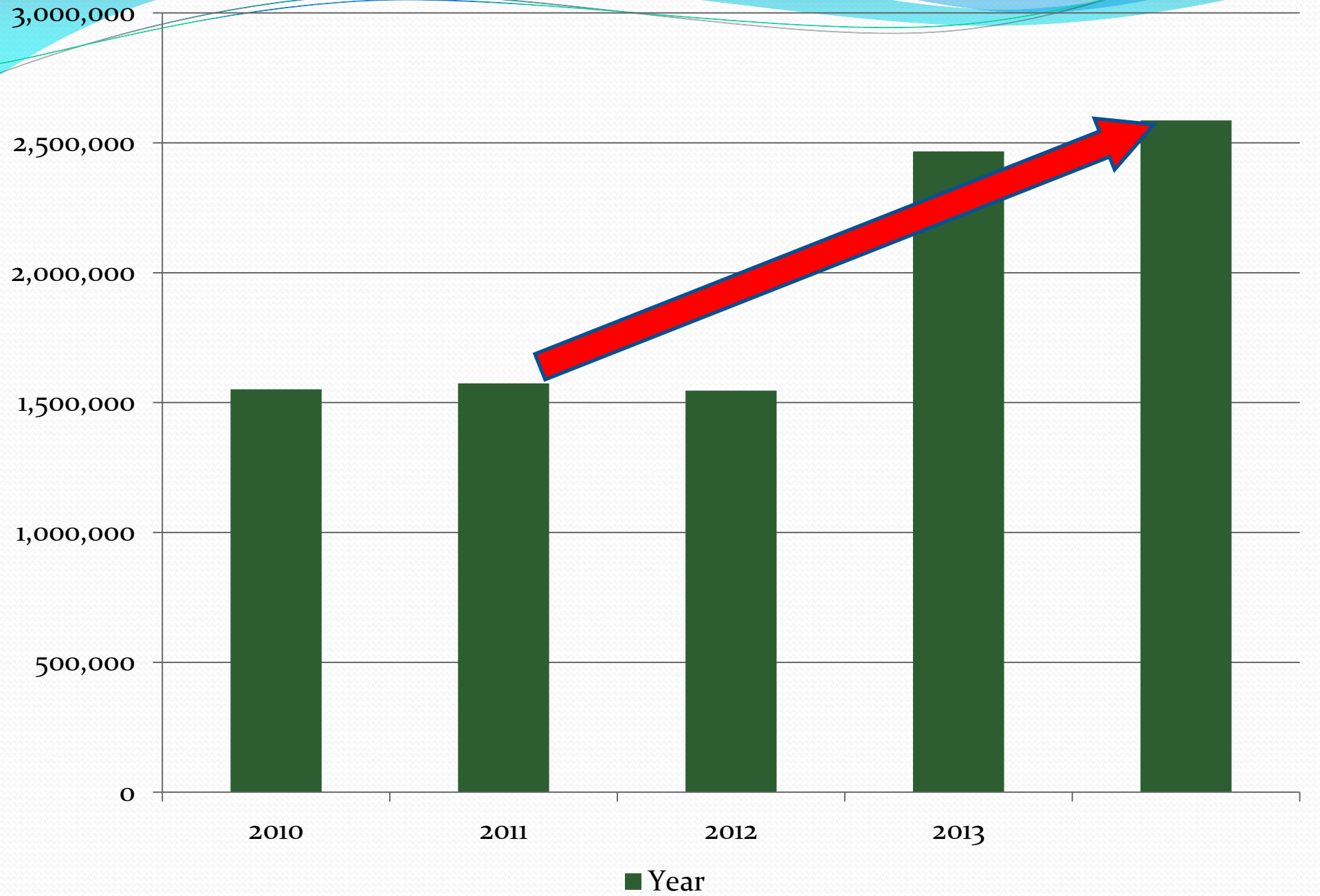
\$30/YEAR



Deception Pass Attendance



Deception Pass Attendance



FULL TIME STAFF -- 2008

9 rangers,

3 maintenance,

1 office assistant,

1 interpreter,

2 senior park aides

= 16

FULL TIME STAFF -- 2014

9 6 rangers,

3 2 maintenance,

~~1 office assistant,~~

~~1 interpreter,~~

2 senior park aides

= ~~16~~ 10





































**PACK-IT-IN
PACK-IT-OUT**

**PLEASE CARRY OUT
ALL TRASH**

WARNING



DUMPING OF GARBAGE OR
LITTER STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
RCW 9A.06.010
FINES UP TO \$5,000
+ JAIL TIME



**CLOSED
FOR
WINTER**

ONE WAY

















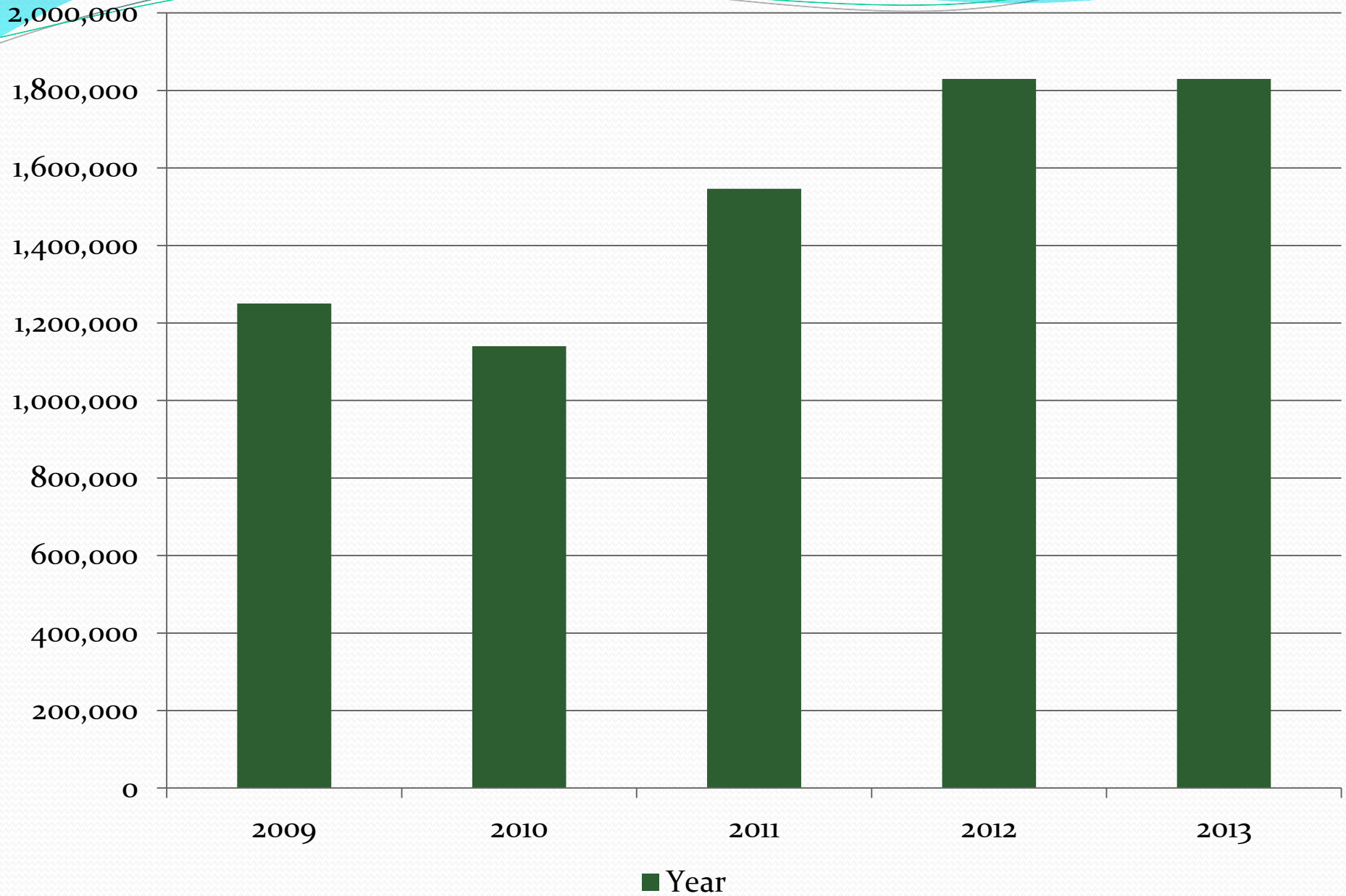




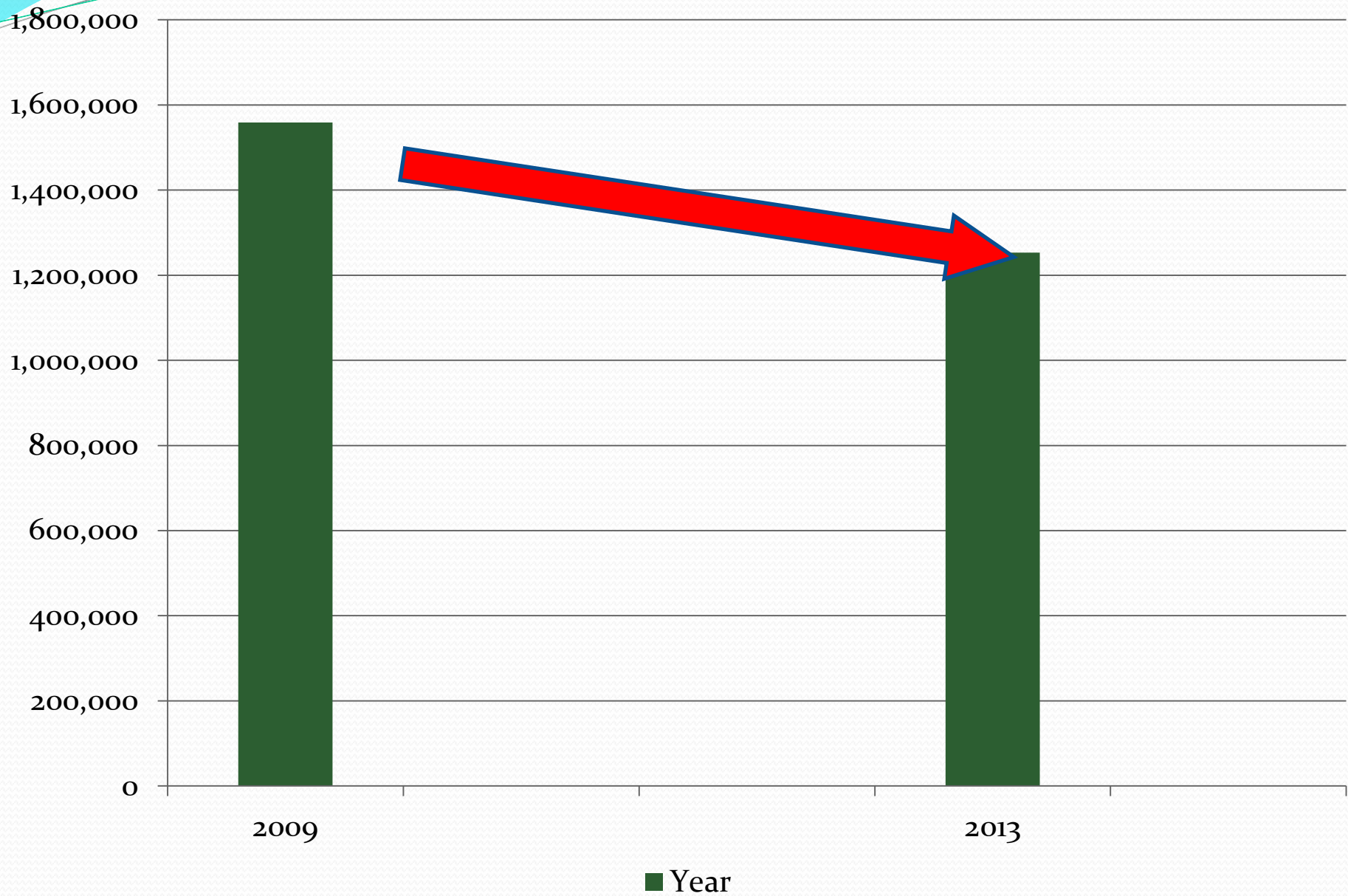




Deception Pass Revenue



Deception Pass Expenses









DANGER

LAKE CLOSED
due to toxic algae

**KEEP OUT
OF LAKE**

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your animals have
sudden or unexplained sickness or signs of poisoning.

Report toxic algae blooms to Department of Ecology
360-407-6000

Call your local health department
360-677-7350





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Report toxic algae blooms to Department of Ecology
360-407-6000

Call your local health department
360-677-7350





VOLUNTEERS

2003: 1,942 hours

2007: 6,220 hours

2013: 11,000 hours











































Come as you are,
Stay as long as you can.
We're all family now.
So no seating plan.

Visitor Information

COME ABOARD
TO EXPLORE
OAK HARBOR



TOURS

↑
DONATIONS
ACCEPTED
HERE
COLLECTED
DAILY





THE CCC AT CORNET BAY

*"What a wonderful place to enjoy nature - among
men of the same kind."*
John Ford, *Camp #200*



A Camp in the Woods

On the 2nd of June in 1933, 100 CCC enrollees from Delmar arrived by train in Annapolis. The Deception Pass Bridge had not yet been built so the men were transported to Whidbey Island on a ferry that ran between Vindex Point and Lyngus Point. They gave the next six months clearing the area and establishing CCC Camp #200 here at the present day site of the Cornet Bay Retreat Center. For the better part of the next decade, CCC members labored to create what is now Deception Pass State Park.

These signs were made possible with support from the Deception Pass Park Foundation

A Lifeline in Desperate Times

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt came into office in 1933, America was in the middle of the Great Depression. Unable to find work, millions were living in poverty. Young men were hit especially hard by the economic downturn. Shortly after being elected, Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as part of his New Deal. The aim of the CCC was to help enrollees gain work experience and wages doing labor that would preserve and develop the nation's vast natural resources. Camps of young men were quickly mobilized by the Corps and put to work planting trees, building bridges and roads, fighting forest fires and soil erosion, and developing national and state parks.

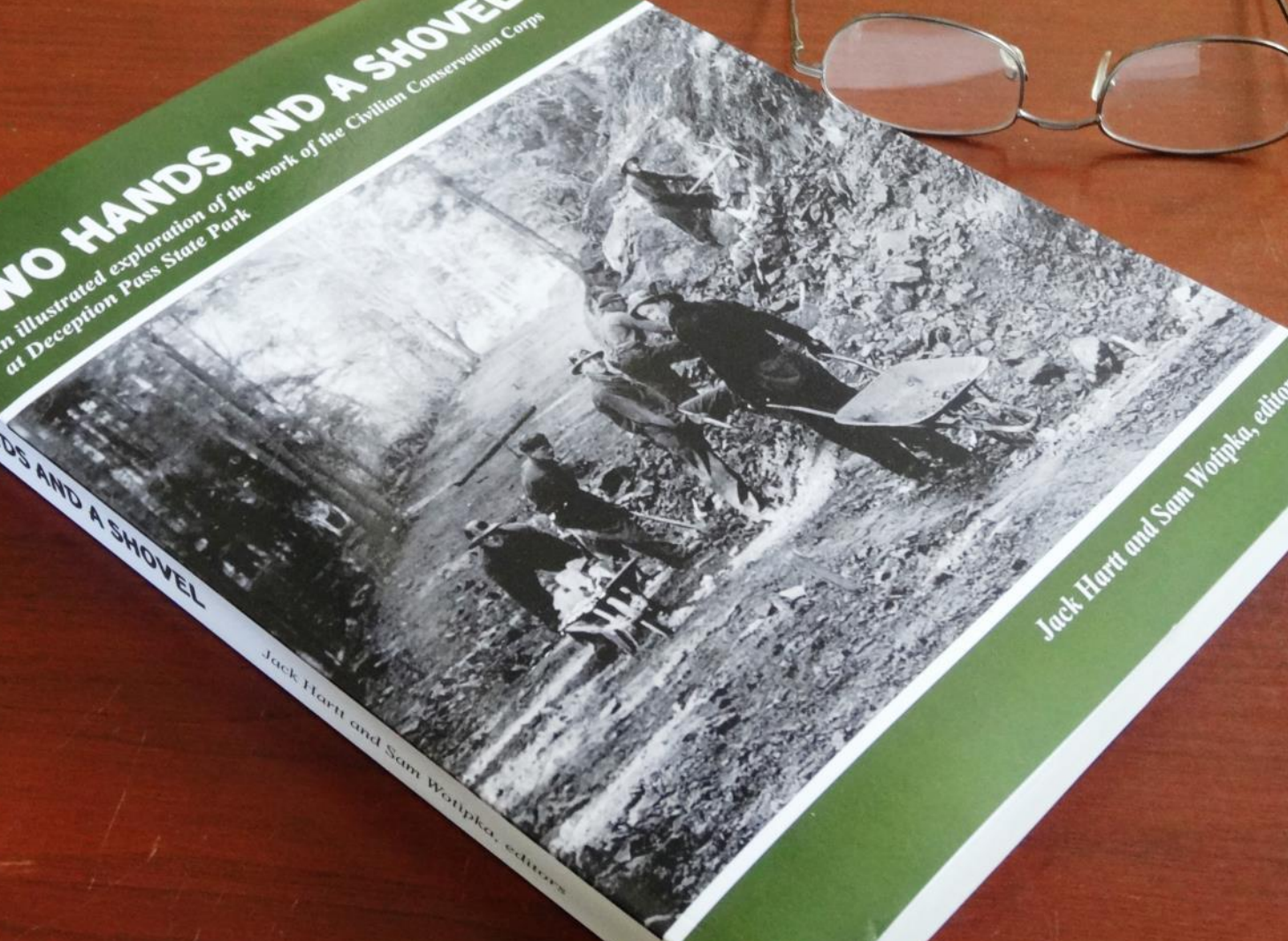


The entrance to the CCC camp at Cornet Bay

DECEPTION PASS PARK
FOUNDATION

TWO HANDS AND A SHOVEL

An illustrated exploration of the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps
at Deception Pass State Park



Jack Hart and Sam Woipka, editors

TWO HANDS AND A SHOVEL

Jack Hart and Sam Woipka, editors





PLEASE RESPECT THE BALDS AND MEADOWS



A "Bald" is an area that was scraped to bedrock by moving ice.

11,000 years ago the massive ice sheet that covered this area rapidly receded back to Canada.

It left behind hill tops scraped to bedrock, leaving no soil for plants to grow.

Over thousands of years enough soil has built up to allow the plants we see in the meadows to become established.

-Please tread lightly-

Unthinking footsteps today could wipe out years of natural processes in this sensitive area.

- Stay within the wooden rails
- Stay on established trails
- Step or stand on bare rock when possible
- Keep all pets on leash & on trails
- No bicycles

Thank you to the Desolation Pass State Park Foundation for project funding.













Marine Mammals of Puget Sound

Species	Length	Weight	Color	Notes
Orca	26-32 ft	6,000-12,000 lbs	Black and white	Apex predator, intelligent, social
Gray Whale	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Longest migration, baleen
Fin Whale	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Longest baleen whale
Blue Whale	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Blue	Largest animal ever
Humpback Whale	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Known for breaching
Minke Whale	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Common in Puget Sound
Sei Whale	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Common in Puget Sound
Pygmy Whale	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Common in Puget Sound
Dugong	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Common in Puget Sound
Manatee	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Common in Puget Sound
Sturgeon	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Common in Puget Sound
Shark	25-30 ft	30,000-40,000 lbs	Gray	Common in Puget Sound







Ryan McKasson
&
Dave Bartley







Return of the Sea Stars

A Conservation Success Story

For many years, the sea stars that once thrived in the rocky intertidal zone of the Oregon coast were nearly gone. In the 1980s, a mysterious disease caused the sea stars to die in large numbers. By the 1990s, the sea stars had almost disappeared. In 1991, a group of scientists and conservationists began a project to reintroduce sea stars to the coast. They collected sea stars from other parts of the world and brought them back to the coast. They also collected sea stars from the coast and brought them back to the coast. The project was a success. By 2000, the sea stars had returned to the coast. Today, the sea stars are thriving and the coast is once again a beautiful place to visit.

Oregon Coast State Park

































Central Whidbey Area





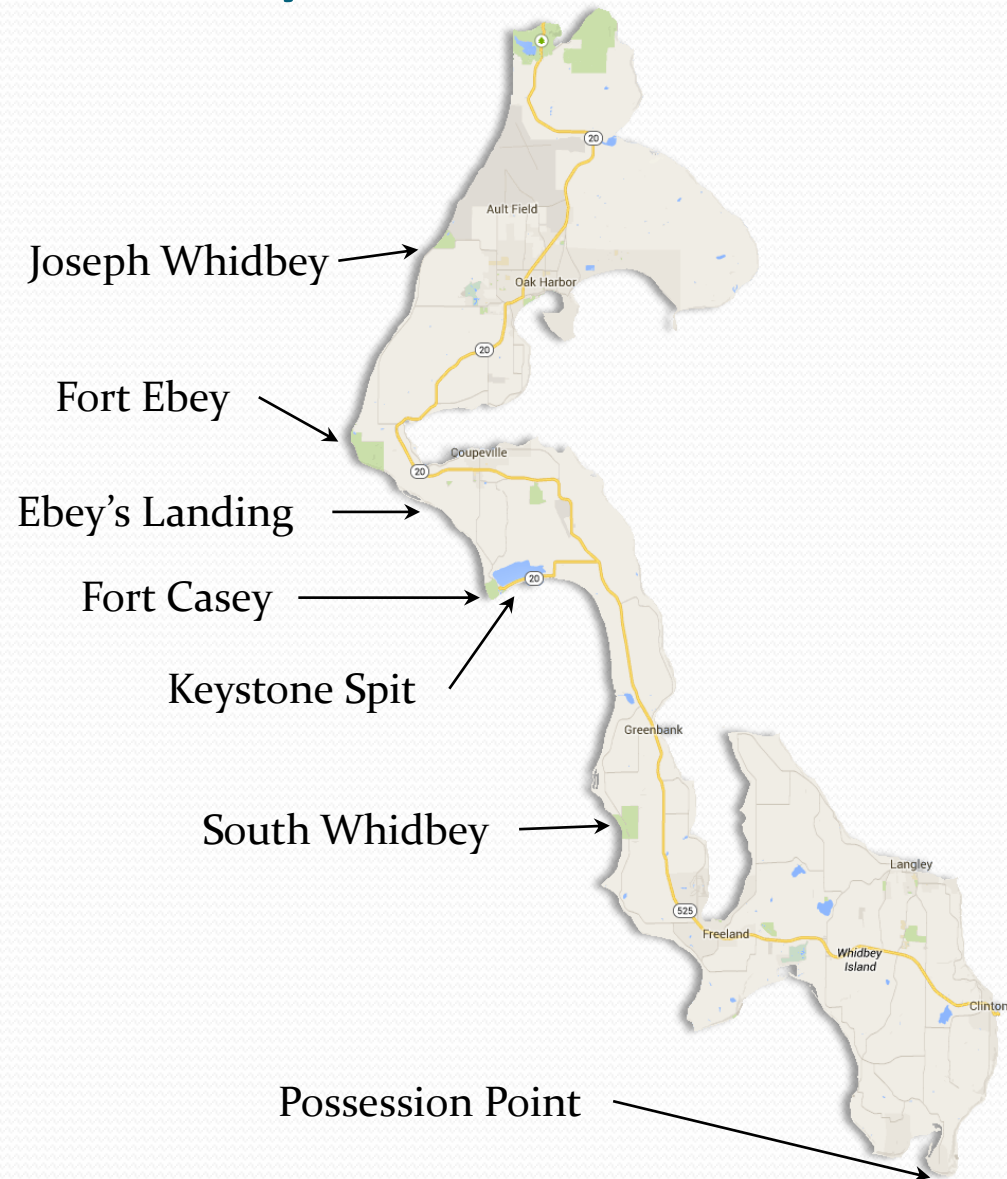
Central Whidbey Area State Parks



Fort Casey – Fort Ebey – South Whidbey – Ebey's Landing – Possession Point – Joseph Whidbey

What is the Central Whidbey Area?

- Includes Seven State Parks
- A total of 1655 acres
- Over 20 miles of trail
- 34,000 feet of saltwater shoreline
- 145 Campsites
- A huge variety of natural, cultural and historical resources
- Visited annually by almost 1.5 million people



What is the Central Whidbey Area?

AND it's only 2 ½ years old...



So, how did we get here?

Back in the old days...

2011

Three separate management areas-

FORT CASEY AREA

- Fort Casey
- Keystone Spit
- Ebey's Landing

FORT EBEY AREA

- Fort Ebey
- Joseph Whidbey

SOUTH WHIDBEY AREA

- South Whidbey
- Possession Point



Back in the old days...

2011

Permanent staffing assigned to each area-

FORT CASEY AREA

- Park Manager
- 2 Park Rangers
- Seasonal Senior Park Aide

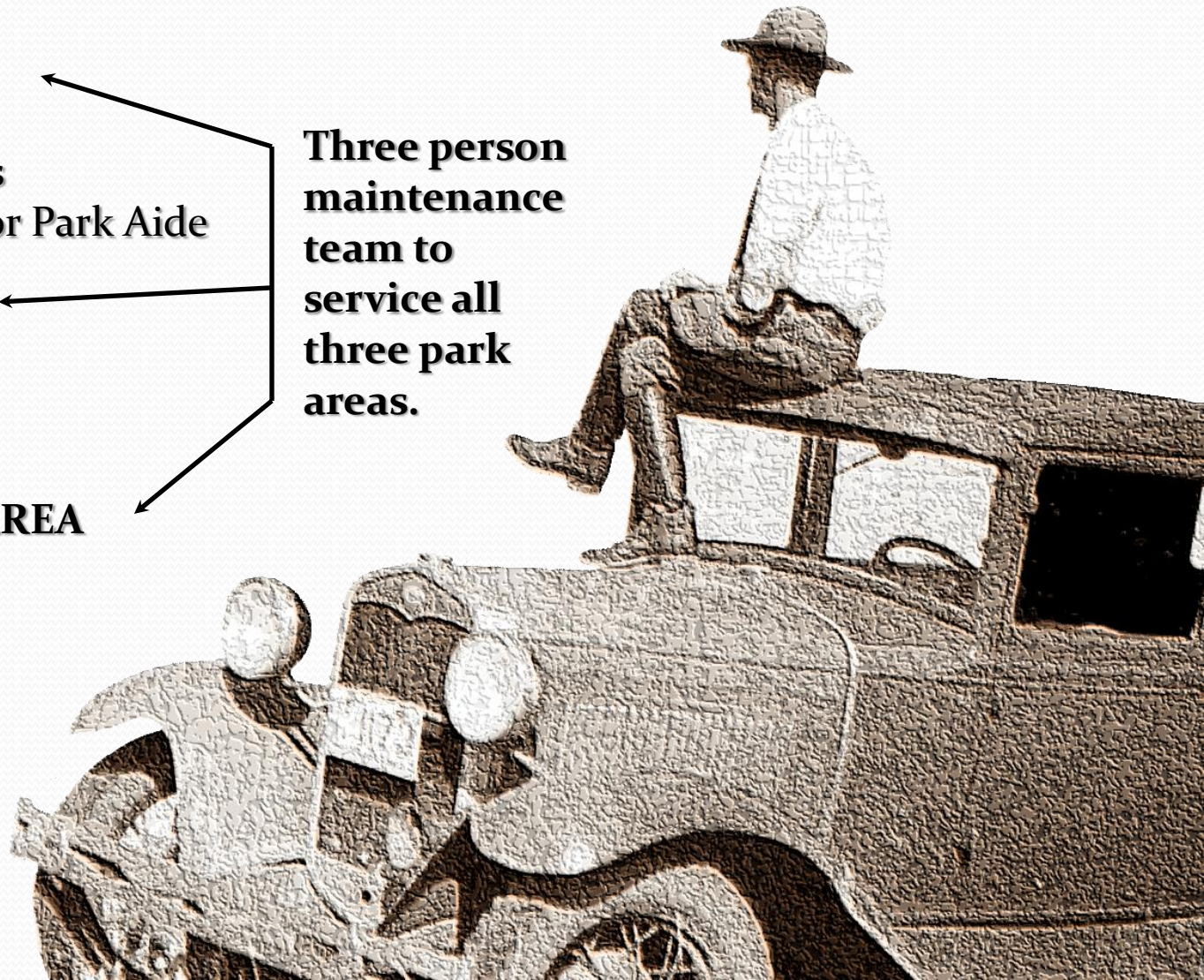
FORT EBEY AREA

- Park Manager
- 1 Park Ranger

SOUTH WHIDBEY AREA

- Park Manager
- 1 Park Ranger

**Three person
maintenance
team to
service all
three park
areas.**



A time of change



The State's shrinking budget led to a need to reduce staff and find new ways to manage our parks.

- A concept of large Area Management is created to share staff and resources between smaller, existing areas.
- In 2012, all Whidbey Island State Parks south of Deception Pass State Park are combined into one management area.

A time of change



A new staffing model for the area-

- 1 - Area Manager
- 1 - Assistant Manager of Operations
- 2 - Seasonal Park Rangers
- 1 - Construction and Maintenance Lead
- 1 - Part time Maintenance Mechanic
- 1 - Office Assistant
- 1 - Senior Park Aide

A total reduction of approximately 35% or 4 permanent FTE

Facing the reality of cuts

- Camping season is reduced at South Whidbey and Fort Ebey.
- Summer interpretive programs are put on hold.
- Office hours are reduced at all parks.
- Certain restrooms are closed during the winter season.



- Staff morale and motivation is low.
- Park Residences are vacant.
- Not enough staff to open and close gates at all parks.
- Problems at a specific park leave other parks unattended.

Finding solutions to succeed

- A central office for all permanent staff is created at Fort Casey.
- Office Assistant assumes many of the administrative tasks formerly handled by other staff.
- Supplies and products are standardized throughout the area parks.
- Park Rangers are scheduled throughout the area based on priority and need.
- Volunteer Host sites are established throughout the area to assist with customer service in campgrounds and Welcome Stations.
- Local Volunteer program is expanded to assist with seasonal park clean-ups and other tasks.



Creativity and new partnerships

The vacant residence at South Whidbey is leased to the **Calyx Outdoor School and Service, Education & Adventure (SEA)**.

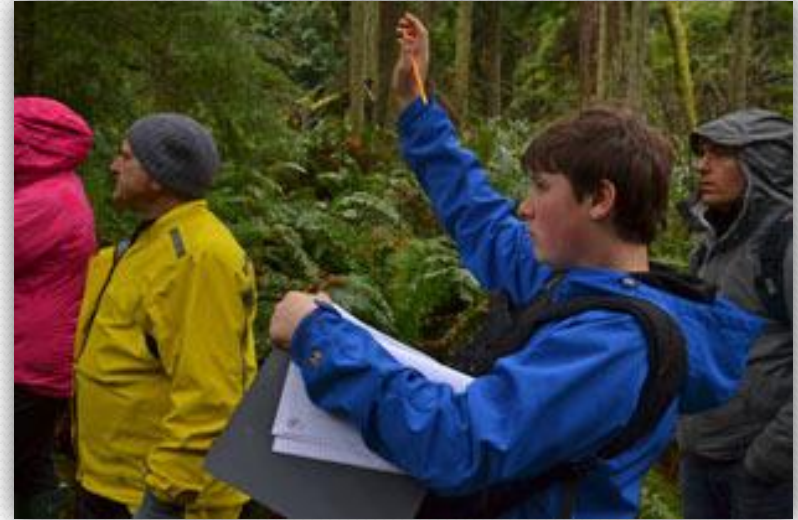


Calyx Students, families and staff-

- Use the South Whidbey as their outdoor class room
- Monitor trails and report findings to Park Staff
- Open and close park gates
- Assist with park projects throughout the school year

Creativity and new partnerships

The vacant residence at South Whidbey is leased to the **Calyx Outdoor School and Service, Education & Adventure (SEA)**.



SEA sought out grants to bring public school groups to South Whidbey for educational field trips.

- Students engaged in outdoor learning led by local naturalists, artists and historians.
- They also performed service projects for the park as part of their experience.

Creativity and new partnerships



The Friends of South Whidbey State Park was established to help support the park and bring interpretive programming back during the summer season.

In 2013, the Friends-

- Provided the park over 300 hours of volunteer help
- Organized 18 interpretive events that drew an estimated attendance of 618 visitors
- Worked with Calyx and SEA to hold two successful community events. (Celebration of Water and Holly Days)



Help from our neighbors



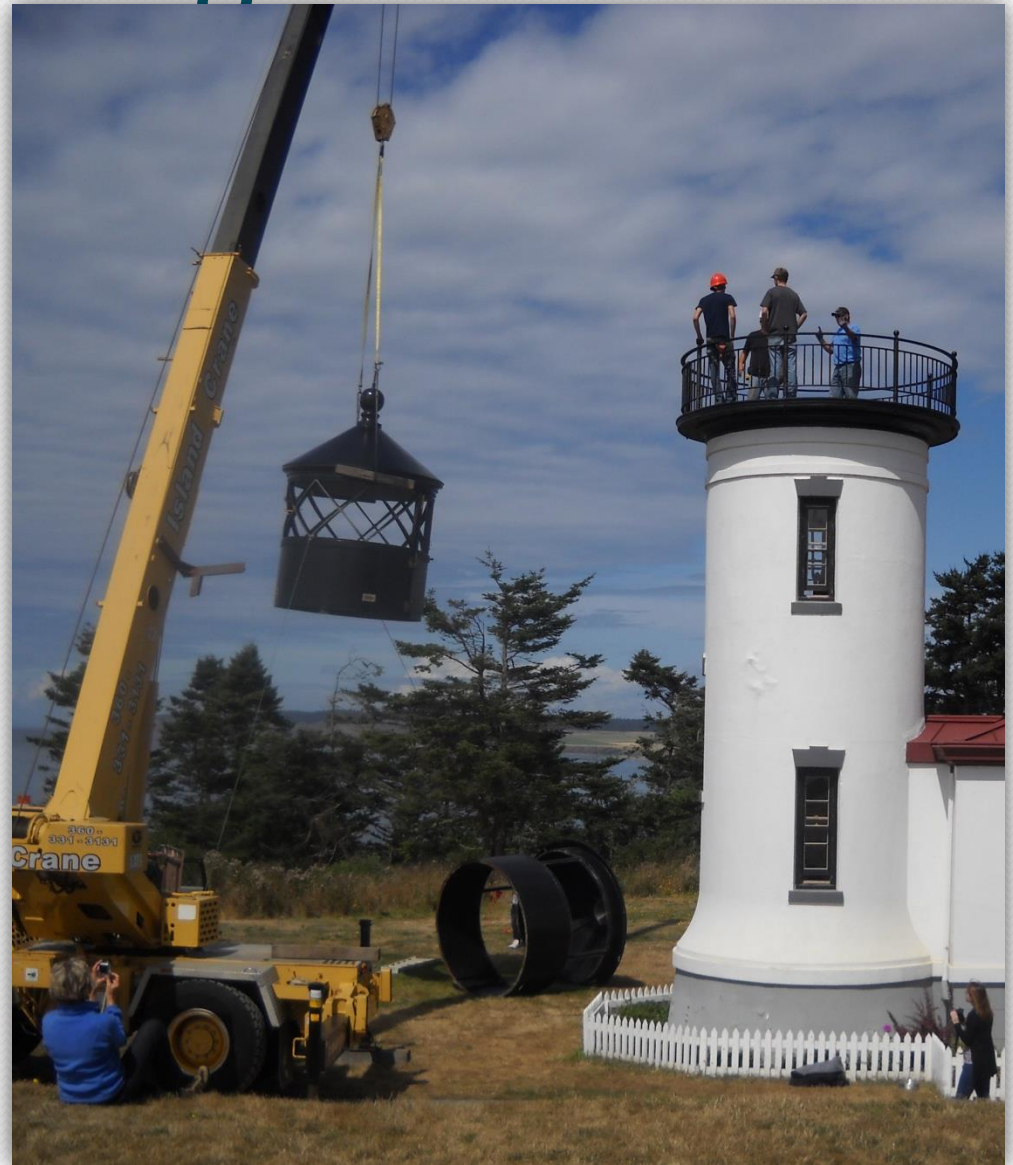
Fort Casey received an Ebey's Forever Grant and hosted the Ebey's Historic Preservation Field School to rehabilitate two historic Fort Plotting Room structures.

Volunteers and experts from our local community, National Parks, ELNHR, and the Coupeville Lions Club, stepped up to make these projects a huge success!



Help from our neighbors

Students from all three public schools on Whidbey worked with Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, Lighthouse Environmental Programs, WSU-Island County, Island Crane, and Washington State Parks, to fabricate and install a historically accurate replica lantern house on the Admiralty Head Lighthouse.



WA State Parks' Future



Taskforce Financing Recommendations

To Finance all Task Force Recommendations:

- Discover Pass – Administrative Improvements (Within revenue projections)
- Re-Imposition of Bottled Water Sales Tax (\$46M)
- Re-Imposition of RV Excise Tax (\$19M)
- Re-Direction of Watercraft Excise Tax (\$35M from GF-S)
- Rough Breakdown
 - 1/3 GF-S Transfer
 - 2/3 New Revenue Sources

Taskforce Financing Recommendations

To Finance State Parks:

- 60% Earned Revenue
- 40% Taxes
 - 25% Recreation-oriented
 - 15% Broad-based

Other Funding Sources Considered

- Motor Vehicle Annual License Fees (up to \$10) - \$120M
- Discover Pass Pricing Changes - up to \$4M
- Extending Litter Tax Diversion Permanently – \$10M
- Modifying Donation/Discover Pass Programs - \$5–10M
- General Fund – Dedicated to Specific Policy Objectives

Commission Supports the Task Force

The Commission agrees and supports wholeheartedly:

- The Governor's goals and the report's attention to increasing public participation in active outdoor recreation.
- Task Force priority of increasing outdoor education for youth – and to get them up and outdoors and moving. We need to engage and inspire our kids and grandkids, for their own health and for the ongoing health of the resources they will inherit.
- Task Force's attention to increasing outdoor tourism and providing stronger linkages between recreation visits and economic development. State Parks has continued to collaborate in tourism efforts around the state, because we know that outdoor recreation creates jobs, contributes to state revenues and supports local businesses wherever we are.

Thank You!

Washington's state parks and state outdoor recreation opportunities benefit all citizens:

- Their health
- Personal and state economic wellbeing
- Quality of life

Questions?

